



THE LEMONIER EXPRESS

September 2003

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Message From The Commander

Greetings from the Horn of Africa. I am hopeful that each of you has received my letter of welcome dated 31 May 2003. It was my first attempt to establish contact with each of you. As a husband, father, and grandfather, I well understand the importance of keeping each of you in the information loop.

Rule #1 is -- Informed spouses are always more supportive spouses. As we travel down this road together I will try to pass along everything I know that is solid, but will try equally hard not to jerk you around with information that changes every other day. The CJTF-HOA Homepage (www.cjtfhoa.centcom.mil) will be my primary means to pass along information, but I will continue to use this letter and my weekly phone messages for those of you who do not have internet access. The dilemma I face is when to pass, or not to pass, imperfect information. I ask that you trust that I will get everything to you as quickly as possible. If you have concerns that you believe are not being addressed, please contact one of my points of contact and ask.

These are trying times for us all, but trying times are what produce heroes and historic moments. I am reminded of my father's 2-year deployment to the World War II Pacific Theater. When he returned, my sister was 18 months old. Only hindsight allows us to understand the historic magnitude of that era. Please do not misunderstand me; I am not suggesting that anyone out here is deployed for 1 year...let alone 2 years. The point is this is a Global

War On Terrorism and the destiny of our children and grandchildren will be directly affected by our actions here...and your support there. One day, the history books will describe great victories and successes, passionate embraces at homecoming reunions, and smiling fathers meeting babies for the first time. History is unlikely to record the loneliness and heartache of separation. That sacrifice is only truly appreciated by those who have survived it.

All out here are eager to return home and to a normal life, but you can be sure that we are working hard and accomplishing much. We currently have forces working with our coalition partners in Djibouti, Yemen, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Kenya. I would love to tell you the details of what is happening here, but I am not at liberty to share most of it. I can tell you that good things are happening and your loved ones are performing magnificently.

The weather out here is hot and dusty, the humidity is on the rise, and time can become a blur. Without a calendar, it is sometimes tough to keep track of which day of the week it is. Your e-mails, cards, letters, and occasional voice on the other end of the phone keep us going. I remind you that this letter is posted to the CJTF-HOA Homepage on the 8th of every month, and mailed out of Camp Lejeune, NC by the 12th.

Thank you for your continued support and your prayers. Separation is tough on us all, but the reward will be the eradication of a transnational terrorist network that seeks to destroy our freedom and steal our children's future. Your patience is greatly appreciated.



Mastin M. Robeson
Brigadier General, USMC



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

CJTF-HOA Info

- 1(866)360-3775
- 1(910)451-2222

American Red Cross

- 1(877)272-7337

TriCare Appointment/Advice

- 1(800)931-9501

CJTF-HOA Family Readiness Officer, Djibouti, Africa

- LT R. C. Francis

- 24 hrs Tel: 011-973-82-9257
- e-mail: froafrica@hoa.centcom.mil

Family Readiness Officer, Camp Lejeune, NC

- LT J. A. Polson

- Tel: (910) 451-8735
- e-mail: frousal@hoa.centcom.mil

Family Readiness Staff Non-Commissioned Officer, Camp Lejeune, NC

-GySgt F. V. Munoz

- Tel: (910) 451-8719
- e-mail: frousa2@hoa.centcom.mil



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From the Enduring Freedom Chapel

When is your loved one returning from deployment? Even though the anticipated date is at the forefront of our minds, all too often both the warrior and the families back home don't prepare properly for the return.

Sure, parties, banners, eating out, and celebrating are all fun ways to greet your loved one—but what about preparing for the emotional adjustment?

Commonly, emotional adjustments from deployment can take as long as twice the time spent during the deployment. In many ways, the real work begins when your warrior returns.

All too often, we fantasize how great and wonderful everything will be when the family is back together great to look for being together be the source of We become our expectations reality. Some of unrealistic While volumes about and “return and following help the



again. While it is ahead and long again, it also may great frustration. frustrated when do not meet us have high and expectations. have been written “redeployment” reunion,” the reminders will adjustment back

to “normal” life together: Back home, you can help by gradually making adjustments and dividing home duties. Learn to celebrate without spending a lot of money. 90% of returning warriors make a major purchase upon return. Learn how to enjoy the reunion without long-term financial commitments. While you need to make time to be alone with your warrior, know that your warrior may need some “time alone” to adjust back into the home routine. This is not a sign of rejection, but of adjustment. Be patient. Your loved one may have difficulty adjusting to new sleep patterns, noise levels, and constant attention. If children are in the home, schedule time for each one to have some one-on-one time with your warrior.

Relationships are a gift from God. Ask the Lord to help in the process of “redeployment” and look forward to rediscovering the process of being together once again.

Your chaplain and your Family Service Centers have additional materials that will be helpful.

Happy planning!

Chaplain Hal Scott and RP1 John Caudle



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Task Force Rawhide Replaces Alpha 1/24

Story by Sgt. Matthew B. Roberson

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – Task Force Rawhide, part of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism), replaced Company A, 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, as the guard force for the Combined Joint Task Force Horn-of-Africa here.

Task Force Rawhide took over Alpha 1/24's duties of supporting CJTF-HOA's mission of detecting, disrupting and defeating transnational terrorists operating in the East African region by providing security for Camp Lemonier.

With the 4th MEB (AT)'s mission being to detect, deter and defend against terrorism worldwide, Task Force Rawhide brings valuable terrorism expertise to CJTF-HOA that most infantry battalions do not have.

Marines from Task Force Rawhide maintain higher levels of close-in marksmanship skills due to the mandatory Enhanced Marksmanship Program (EMP) course incorporated into the 4th MEB (AT)'s regular training.

They also possess a variety of anti-terrorism skill sets including counter-surveillance training designed to allow AT Bn. Marines to identify terrorist surveillance efforts prior to actual attacks and high risk personnel training that gives the Marines the ability to conduct personnel protection operations.

In addition to advanced training, the Task Force also brings valuable assets to assist in the counter-terrorism mission.

"We have everything an infantry company does, plus snipers, designated marksmen and better optics," said Lt. Col. Charlie Dunston, Task Force Rawhide commanding officer. "We also have the capability to be reinforced by a FAST (Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team) platoon if needed."

Dunston went on to say that future plans for the Camp involves enhancing the overall security of the compound and refining security operations. "As the camp grows, we will continue to look for ways to run things more efficiently."

Other plans include continuing to develop closer relationships with the Air Force, French and Djiboutian security forces aboard the Camp, said Dunston.

Refining security operations and looking for ways to run things more efficiently are ongoing things that security force must do in combat situations, said Maj. Scott Smith, Alpha 1/24 commanding officer.

Since their arrival, Smith said Alpha Co. has been constantly improving security positions, building bunkers, upgrading and adding additional posts and redefining the role of the quick reaction force (QRF).

"One of the things we've tried to do with the QRF is run daily drills we thought were likely threats to the Camp," said Smith. These drills helped the Marines stay prepared for any situation that might have occurred and aided in avoiding complacency.

Smith went on to say that staying focused and avoiding complacency were key points he planned on stressing to the unit taking his place.

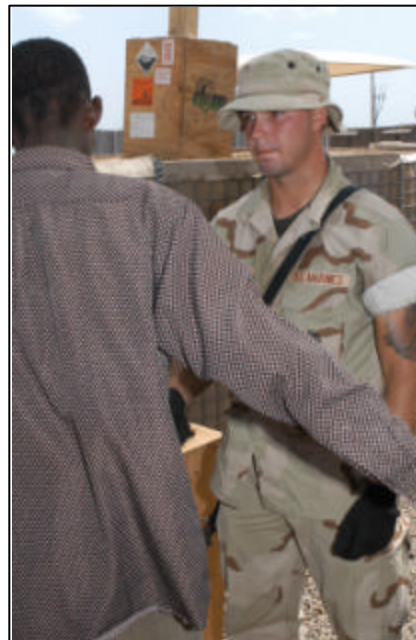
"After being here for while, this place can be perceived as a more secure place than it is," said Smith. "We're in an area that rates hazardous duty pay for a reason."

From standing post to conducting training and drills, Smith feels Alpha Co. has performed professionally and couldn't be happier with their performance while in the Horn-of-Africa.

"I think my Marines have done a tremendous job since they've been out here," said Smith. "They came here motivated, focused, with a strong sense of urgency and dedicated to performing the mission."

"It's been a long time since I've seen a unit show the level of maturity and responsibility that Alpha 1/24 has," said Brig. Gen. Mastin M. Robeson, commander of CJTF-HOA. "But when the decision was made that the 4th MEB was going to replace them, I made the recommendation for [the Marines from TF Rawhide] to come out due to the higher level of training and technology they possess."

Robeson went on to say that TF Rawhide has some big shoes to fill, but he's confident they can accomplish the mission.



Camp Lemonier Happenings

August 24- A group, made up of members of all the tenant units aboard Camp Lemonier, traveled to Bahrain for a Blink 182 Concert.

Alpha Company 1st Bn., 24th Marines was replaced by Task Force Rawhide as Camp Lemonier's Security Detachment.

Airmen of the 6th and 375th Security Forces Squadron recently became the 87th Expeditionary SFS by relieving the 822nd SFS, who provided security for Camp Lemonier's air assets.



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UNIT UPDATE

10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION

C Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division conducted the following training during the month of July:

- Numerous ranges in Djibouti / Ethiopia to include:
 - a. Known Distance ranges.
 - b. Reflexive fire ranges.
- External Sling Load training with HMH-461, both day and night iterations to help certify them.
- The Mortar platoon is currently undergoing training on the mortar ballistic computer and plotting board to further their proficiency.

Their also conducting Mil-to-Mil training in Hurso, Ethiopia.

COMMAND LOGISTICS ELEMENT

The Command Logistics Element conducted the following training:

- Live fire range with German soldiers firing German weapons such as the MG3 Medium Machinegun, H&K G36 and the H&K G3.
- Live fire range with German soldiers firing American weapons such as the M16A2 service rifle, 9MM Baretta service pistol and the M240G Medium Machinegun.

916th WELL DRILLING DETACH

The 916th Well Drilling Detachment has recently completed their first well in Dikhil, bringing a needed water source to the community and began drilling a well in Ali-Sabieh. Most of these communities' wells are surface wells that dry up during droughts.

478TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION

C Company, 478th Civil Affairs Battalion (SO) conducted the following missions:

- MED/DENTCAP July 30-31 at Lamu Island, Kenya. The C Co., 478th CA Bn.'s Civic Action Team along with US Navy medical personnel were able to treat 934 medical patients, 75 dental patients and performed 13 surgeries at the Kingfahd District Hospital.
- MEDCAP on 7-8 August at Bargoni, Kenya. The C Co., 478th CA Bn.'s Civic Action Team along with US Navy medical personnel treated 519 patients.
- VETCAP on 18-22 August at Bargoni, Lamu Island and Pate Island, Kenya. The C Co., 478th CA Bn.'s Civic Action Team treated/vaccinated over 2500 animals.
- A Civil Affairs team from the 478th CA BN has been deployed to Hurso, Ethiopia and is conducting Civil Military Operations in the eastern portion of Ethiopia. The team has completed numerous assessments including a water distribution facility, civilian supply sources, schools and clinics in the Dire Dawa and Hurso area.

463RD ENGINEERS

Soldiers of the 463rd have conducted the following operations:

- Continues work with the Djiboutian Army on Hol-Hol road.
- Built additions to a school and a clinic in Ethiopia.
- Assisted with work on a Well Drilling Project in Dikhil, Djibouti.

CJTF-HOA ENGINEERS

The Engineer's of CJTF-HOA has continued to conduct Civil-Military Operation within Djibouti. These operations include:

- Finished repairs to a school in As Eyl. Ribbon cutting for the school's opening was held August 28.
- Continues work on Dikhil Hospital and Well Cistern/Pump House projects.

HMH - 461

HMH-461 recently received and tested the Rear Mounted Weapon System. This system gives their helicopters 180 degrees of defensive fire from the rear of the aircraft. The RMWS is currently being evaluated as a possible defensive weapon system for several assault support aircraft in the Marine Corps and HMH-461 is the first Fleet Marine Force squadron to implement the system in real-world operations.

Task Force Rawhide

Task Force Rawhide Arrived here early August taking A1/24s place as the Base Force Protection Unit, so they could return home to their loved ones. The Task Force has accomplished the following training since arriving:

- All Marines have BZOed their weapons on local ranges.
- Conducted a Designated Marksman shoot to adjust sights and allow the Marines to familiarize themselves with firing their weapons in the heat of Djibouti.
- Began a training cycle with the local French Commandos.



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Promotions

CJTF-HOA

From Private First Class to Lance Corporal:

- LCpl. G.T. Omine
- LCpl. L.R. Miller
- LCpl. Diolosa



From Lance Corporal to Corporal:

- Cpl. B. A. Martinez



87th ESFS

From Sergeant to Staff Sergeant:

- SSgt. Benjamin Dodson
- SSgt. Travis Kittrell
- SSgt. John Stampfli
- SSgt. Dennis Zanoni



HMH-461

From Lance Corporal to Corporal:

- Cpl. Jason L. Gibson (Meritorious)
- Cpl. Harold R. Hoover
- Cpl. Gregory M. Hargrove
- Cpl. James R. Row



Task Force Rawhide

From Private First Class to Lance Corporal:

- LCpl. Matthew S. Fluck
- LCpl. Timothy B. Fikes
- LCpl. Gregory L. Mings



From Lance Corporal to Corporal:

- Cpl. Jason O. Ruane
- Cpl. Raymond E. McGrady
- Cpl. Luz A. Gonzalez
- Cpl. Joshua J. McSweeney



Awards and Recognition

CJTF-HOA

CJTF-HOA had a number of note worthy awards.

- CJ-6 Communicator of the Month was IT3 Roecynth Magpily.
- Camp Lemonier Service Members of the Month were SSgt. Gayle Pierce, USA and IT3 Roecynth Magpily, USN.
- Capt. Michael Hoffman, USMC, was selected to become a Marine Corps Foreign Area Officer (Arabic).
- Lt. Col. David Foster, USMC, was officially designated as an Information Operation Officer.

HMH-461

HMH-461 had two note worthy events.

- LCpl. Jason L. Gibson was meritoriously promoted to Corporal September 2.
- MSgt. Patrick Hairston signed a two year reenlistment September 1.

Wedding Anniversaries

Task Force Rawhide

Congratulations to the following Service Members on their wedding anniversaries:

- 1st Sgt. William & Denise Tevepaugh – August 20th.
- Cpl. Miguel & Cristy Hernandez – August 25th.
- LCpl. Robert & Debbie Thompson – August 26th.
- Sgt. Derek & Lisa Hart – September 20th.
- LCpl. Jorge & Luise Ruiz – September 27th.

New Arrivals

C Co., 478th Civil Affairs Battalion (SO)

Congratulations to SFC Rodriguez and his wife on the birth of their daughter, Emily Marie, August 18th.

Task Force Rawhide

Congratulations to Cpl. Courtney J. Neal and his wife on the birth of their son, Nicholas.

C Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 10th Mountain Division

Congratulations to 1st Lt. Smith and his wife Patricia on the birth of their daughter.



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Welcome Aboard Camp Lemonier!

CJTF-HOA

LCpl. Jason Brown – USMC
LCpl. Gregory M. Walter - USMC

Sgt. Denise Goode – USA
SSgt. Yashica Moore – USAF
Sgt. George E. Epps - USA

SSgt. Terence Carroll – USA
Tech. Sgt. William Holstein – USAF
SSgt. Scott E. Crossen – USMC

Senior Master Sgt. Michael J. Ramsey- USAF

1st Lt. Philip Nesnadny – USA

Lt. Col. Walter E. Lundin – USMC
Cmdr. Jon A. Hagemann - USN
Cmdr. Troy A. Johnson – USN

Col. James Wedertz – USAF
Col. John M. Clapp – USMC
Col. Charles E. Sumpter – USA

Brig. Gen. Willard C. Broadwater – USA

Civilian Personnel:

GS12 Alan B. Weeke

Fare Thee Well!

CJTF-HOA

LCpl. Bryan P. Henley – USMC

Cpl. Charles M. East – USMC
Cpl. Alan A. Dockery – USMC
Cpl. Jennifer M. Geiger – USMC

Sgt. Brain T. Boger – USMC

TechSgt Michael J. Damato -USAF
SSgt. Jamie R. Lozada – USMC
SSgt. Jose Luevano III – USMC
SSgt. Mark W. Master – USMC

MSgt. Larry D. Smith – USMC
MSgt. Dennis P. Mares – USMC

MGySgt Vernon J. Ducote– USMC

Capt. Aaron E. Bennett – USMC
Capt. Jody W. Chalich – USAF
Capt. Christa M. Bowdish – USMC

Maj. Vick Bezjian - USAFR
Maj. William P. Anglin – USMC
Maj. John A. Bolt – USMC
LtCmdr Richard J. Haberlin – USN

LtCol. Arthur E. Verdugo – USMC

Col. Edward F. Murphy – USAF

Col. Robert W. English – USA
Col. Robert L. Beaver – USA

Civilian Personnel:

GS12 Marc A. Joseph